

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled) A hose for transporting a fluid and which exhibits antimicrobial properties, said hose comprising an inner tube made from a thermoplastic polymer composition;
wherein said composition comprises polyvinyl chloride and an antimicrobial agent.
2. (Canceled) A hose according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of organic antimicrobial agents and metallic antimicrobial agents.
3. (Canceled) A hose according to claim 2 wherein the antimicrobial agent is metallic and comprises silver.
4. (Canceled) A hose according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial agent is organic and is selected from the group consisting of chlorinated phenols.
5. (Canceled) A hose according to claim 4 wherein the chlorinated phenol is selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'- trichloro-2'hydroxy diphenol ether or 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy) and mixtures thereof.
6. (Canceled) A hose according to claim 1 further comprising a covering surrounding said first tube.
7. (Canceled) A hose according to claim 1 wherein said chlorinated phenol is present between about 200 ppm and about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

8. (Canceled) A hose according to claim 7 wherein said chlorinated phenol is present between about 500 ppm and about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

9. (Canceled) A hose according to claim 1 wherein the hose is a garden hose.

10. (Currently Amended) A garden hose comprising:
an inner tube made from a thermoplastic polymer composition including polyvinyl chloride and sized for fluid carriage in a garden use; and
one antimicrobial agent disposed in said polymer composition comprising polyvinyl chloride and an;
wherein said one antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'- trichloro-2'-hydroxy diphenol ether or and 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy).

11. (Currently Amended) A garden hose according to claim 10 wherein a concentration of said antimicrobial agent in said polymer composition is present between from about 200 ppm and to about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

12. (Currently Amended) A garden hose according to claim 10 wherein said antimicrobial agent is present in said polymer composition from between about 500 ppm and to about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

13. (Canceled) A method of making a hose for conveying fluids and which exhibits antimicrobial properties, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a thermoplastic polymer wherein said polymer comprises polyvinyl chloride;

combining said thermoplastic polymer with a quantity of an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of organic and inorganic antimicrobial agents to create an antimicrobial thermoplastic polymer composition; and

forming an inner tube from said thermoplastic polymer composition; and providing an outer covering which surrounds said inner tube.

14. (Canceled) A method according to claim 13 wherein said antimicrobial agent is organic and is selected from the group consisting of chlorinated phenols.

15. (Canceled) A method according to claim 14 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'hydroxy diphenol ether or 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy) and mixtures thereof.

16. (Canceled) A method according to claim 13 wherein the antimicrobial agent is metallic and comprises silver.

17 (Canceled). A method according to claim 15 wherein the concentration of the antimicrobial agent is between about 200 ppm and 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the polymer composition.

18. (Canceled) A method according to claim 17 wherein concentration of the antimicrobial agent is between about 500 ppm and about 5000 ppm based upon the weight of the polymer composition.

19. (Canceled) A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of adding connectors to the hose to form a garden hose.

20. (New) A garden hose, comprising:
a tube constructed of a thermoplastic polymer composition including polyvinyl chloride, said first tube sized for fluid carriage in a garden use; and

one organic antimicrobial agent disposed in said thermoplastic polymer composition.

21. (New) The garden hose of claim 20 wherein the antimicrobial agent is 2,4,4'- trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenol ether.

22. (New) The antimicrobial hose of claim 20 wherein said antimicrobial agent is from about 200 ppm to about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

23. (New) The antimicrobial hose of claim 22 wherein said antimicrobial agent is from about 500 ppm to about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

24. (New) The antimicrobial hose of claim 20 wherein the garden hose has an outer diameter of at least about 0.5 inch.

25. (New) A garden hose, comprising:

a first tube of a thermoplastic polymer composition including polyvinyl chloride, said first tube sized for fluid carriage in a garden use;

a first antimicrobial agent disposed in said thermoplastic polymer composition, the first antimicrobial agent being an inorganic antimicrobial agent.

26. (New) The garden hose of claim 25 wherein the first antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of a titanium compound; a barium compound; a zinc compound; a silver compound; and a copper compound.

27. (New) The garden hose of claim 26 wherein the first antimicrobial agent is a silver compound.

28. (New) The garden hose of claim 25 wherein the first antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide; barium monohydrate; zinc pyrithione derivatives; elemental silver; silver zeolite; silver in amorphous glass; silver in a sol-gel formulation; elemental copper; copper zeolite; copper in amorphous glass; copper in a sol-gel formulation; elemental zinc; zinc in zeolite; zinc in amorphous glass; and zinc in a sol-gel formulation.

29. (New) The garden hose of claim 25 wherein a concentration of the first antimicrobial agent is from about 200 ppm to about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

30. (New) The garden hose of claim 25 wherein a concentration of first antimicrobial agent is from about 200 ppm to about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

31. (New) The garden hose of claim 25, further comprising:
a second tube disposed substantially concentrically on an outer aspect of and surrounding the first tube.

32. (New) The garden hose of claim 31 wherein the second tube is substantially free of antimicrobial agents.

33. (New) The garden hose of claim 25, further comprising:
a second antimicrobial agent incorporated in the thermoplastic polymer composition of the first tube.

34. (New) The garden hose of claim 25 wherein the second antimicrobial agent is:

(a) an inorganic compound selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide; barium monohydrate; zinc pyrithione derivatives; elemental silver; silver zeolite;

silver in amorphous glass; silver in a sol-gel formulation; elemental copper; copper zeolite; copper in amorphous glass; copper in a sol-gel formulation; elemental zinc; zinc in zeolite; zinc in amorphous glass; and zinc in a sol-gel formulation; or

(b) an organic compound selected from the group consisting of chlorinated phenols, and mixtures of chlorinated phenols.